

FROM THE DESK OF:

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DATE : 9/24/98

TO: FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
MAGALIE ROMAN SALAS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1919 M STREET NW, ROOM 222  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

*WT Docket#  
98-143*

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING 98-143

*( Rm 9148 - Rm 9150 Rm 919 )*

DEAR SIRs:

I WISH TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED RULE MAKING CHANGES FOR AMATEUR RADIO,

I HOLD A TECHNICIAN PLUS AT THIS TIME. I WAS GRANDFATHERED INTO THE LICENSE AS I HAD HELD A REGULAR TECHNICIAN LICENSE PRIOR TO 1987. BY PROFESSION I AM A HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR.

IN YOUR REQUEST FOR COMMENTS IT WAS STATED THAT MOST TECHNICIAN PLUS LICENSEES SELDOM USE ANYTHING BUT THE FM MODE. I DISAGREE I FIND THAT MANY OPERATORS IN VHF CONTEST AND TEN METER CONTESTS ARE TECHNICIAN PLUS OPERATORS. MANY TECH PLUS LICENSES LIKE MYSELF SELDOM USE FM INSTEAD WE PREFER TO USE SINGLE SIDE BAND (SSB) FOR MANY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CONTESTING, AND RAG CHEWING. IF YOU LOOK AT THE RESULTS OF MOST VHF/UHF CONTESTS YOU WILL SEE THAT MANY MAYBE MOST OPERATORS IN THESE CONTESTS HOLD THE TECH + LICENSE..

AS A TECH PLUS I HAVE EARNED A DXCC ON 10 METER SIDEBAND AND SEVERAL OTHER AWARDS ALL ON SIDEBAND. SELDOM DO I USE CW AS I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A KEY DUE TO ARTHRITIS IN MY HANDS AND SOME TONE DEAFNESS, BUT SSB WORKS WELL FOR COMMUNICATIONS.

MY WIFE AND I OWN A CABIN IN AN ISOLATED AREA OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE ONLY COMMUNICATION IS BY RADIO AS WE HAVE NO PHONE LINES AVAILABLE THE NEAREST PHONE IS OVER THREE MILES AWAY. . WITHOUT AMATEUR RADIO I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO STAY THERE AS I HAVE HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT ARE POTENTIALLY LIFE

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THREATENING. MY RADIOS PROVIDE THE ONLY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION TO A FRIEND THAT IS IN A WHEEL CHAIR AND MONITORS THE RADIO FOR ME EVERY THREE HOURS IN CASE I HAVE A PROBLEM WE USE VHF SIDEBAND EXCESSIVELY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COMMISSION ESTABLISH THREE CLASSES OF LICENSES. ONE, BY WHATEVER NAME , WOULD BE A NO CODE VHF /UHF LICENSE ONLY, AND CARRY PRIVILEGES ONLY FOR 144 MHZ AND ABOVE.( ALL MODES OF OPERATION ) WITH A OUTPUT POWER LIMIT OF 200 WATTS EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE LIMITED BY TREATY OR REGULATIONS.

THE SECOND WOULD BE A BASIC HF/VHF/UHF LICENSE WHICH WOULD CARRY SOME LIMITED PHONE PRIVILEGES ON THE HF BANDS CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED FOR NOVICE AND TECHNICIAN USE( 80 METERS, 40 METERS, 15 METERS AND 10 METERS). AND WOULD ALLOW CW ON ALL AMATEUR BANDS WITH A POWER LIMIT OF 200 WATTS. THIS WOULD ALLOW THESE LICENSEES FULL USE OF THE CURRENT COMMERCIAL RADIOS AVAILABLE. AS I ENVISION THIS LICENSE IT WOULD HAVE A CW REQUIREMENT OF FIVE WORDS PER MINUTE AND A TEST EQUAL TO THE CURRENT GENERAL CLASS TEST. CURRENT NOVICE CLASS OPERATORS WOULD ONLY HAVE TO PASS THE WRITTEN TEST TO OBTAIN THIS LICENSE, TECHNICIAN LICENSEES WOULD NEED TO PASS BOTH THE WRITTEN AND CW PARTS AND TECH PLUS LICENSEES WOULD IF LICENSED BEFORE 1987 BE GRANDFATHERED IN AND IF LICENSED AFTER 1987 WOULD NEED TO TAKE THE GENERAL CLASS WRITTEN TEST.

THE THIRD CLASS WOULD BE THE HIGHEST CLASS OF LICENSE AND CARRY ALL AMATEUR PRIVILEGES. THIS WOULD REQUIRE A CODE SPEED OF 10 WPM AND A WRITTEN TEST EQUAL TO THE CURRENT ADVANCED TEST. ALL CURRENTLY LICENSED GENERAL, ADVANCED AND EXTRA CLASS LICENSEES WOULD BE GRANDFATHERED INTO THIS LICENSE.

I BELIEVE THE REDUCTION OF THE LICENSE STRUCTURE TO JUST THREE LICENSES WOULD SIMPLIFY THE LICENSE PROCEDURE AND BY ALLOWING SOME LIMITED PHONE PRIVILEGES AND MODERATE POWER FOR THE SECOND CLASS LICENSE ENCOURAGE AMATEURS TO AT LEAST OBTAIN THIS LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY. IT WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE THE ADVANCED LICENSE AS IT WOULD EXPAND THEIR PRIVILEGES WITHOUT NEEDING TO BUY MORE EQUIPMENT TO USE THE ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES.

I BELIEVE THERE IS A STRONG NEED TO MAKE THE LICENSE CLASS LESS COMPLICATED AND MORE MEANINGFUL FOR TODAY'S YOUTH IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE BUILDING A KNOWLEDGEABLE AMATEUR SERVICE AND ATTRACT OPERATORS WITH SKILLS AND INTEREST IN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS.

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THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING AND ENCOURAGING THE AMATEUR COMMUNITY TO HAVE ACTUAL INPUT INTO YOUR DECISION MAKING PROCESS. I BELIEVE THAT AMATEUR RADIO IS NOT ALWAYS BEST SERVED BY THE AMATEUR RADIO RELAY LEAGUE WHEN IT COMES TO MODERNIZING THE LICENSE PROCEDURE.

*Jerald F. Schuman*  
*NG1FW*